

St. John of the Desert Melkite Catholic Church



3718 E. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85032
Office Phone: 602-787-4787 | Emergency Calls: 602-284-0040 or 623-297-2958
Text the word "DESERT" to 84576 to sign up for Parish Updates
Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @stjohnofthedesert

Very Rev. Father Peter Boutros | Pastor | FrPeter@Typicon.com

Rev. Father Zyad Abyad | Associate Pastor | FrZyad@icloud.com

Rev. Deacon Marion Rimmer | marionrimmer@mail.com

Kh. Simone Boutros | simone@Typicon.com

Kh. Jocelyn Abyad | jabyad@gmail.com

MARCH 16, 2025
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY RELICS & ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY
FOR SOCIAL HOUR & LADIES' GUILD

LITURGY INTENTIONS

For the Health & Salvation of Mary Joan Bender by Jim & Roxanne Ferlmann

For the Health & Salvation of Fr. Joseph S. Haggar

For the Repose of the Soul of Fr. John Meno by Fr. Peter and Kh. Simone

For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Nawaf Ishak by Mary Ishak

For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Nawaf Ishak, Dunia Hatter, Azar Afisa, Issa Issa Hatter, Antwan Frangieh by Issa Dababneh

For the Repose of the Soul of Mary Nawaf Dakhel Ishak by Wael and Fadia Ishak

To request a Divine Liturgy intention, go to our website: www.stjohnofthedesert.com
Requests must be submitted by Thursday to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

Readings
of the Day

EPISTLE: HEBREWS 1:10-14, 2:1-3

GOSPEL: MARK 2: 1-12

THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL WILL BE READ IN ENGLISH AND REPEATED IN ARABIC



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 19 7:00pm Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 21 9:30am Women at the Well

7:00pm Akathist Hymns

Sunday, March 23 10:20am Divine Liturgy followed by Social Hour

Commemorating: Fr. Joseph S. Haggar

St. John of the Desert is Expanding!

Please help support the project and be a part of creating a beautiful home for our families for years to come! Scan the QR code to donate today!

Donate
Now!



Church Expansion



TEXT THE WORD "DESERT" TO 84576 TO SIGN UP FOR PARISH UPDATES



UPCOMING EVENTS & FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ladies Guild: May 18, 2025 Following Liturgy
Men's Group: April 13, 2025 Following Liturgy
Family Catechesis: April 6, 2025 @ 9:30 am
Forerunner Program: March 30, 2025 @12:30 pm
Byzikids & ByziTeens: April 4, 2025 @ 9:00 am
Women at the Well: April 11, 2025 @ 9:30 am
Crafty Ladies: April 1, 2025 @ 10:30 am
Faith Foundations: May 10, 2025 @ 5:00 pm

Attendance: 214
Collection of March 9, 2025
Tithe: \$2,377.00 * Stole Offering \$35.00
Coffee Collection:\$75.00 * Candles: \$0.00
Flowers \$0.00 * Bulletin Ad: \$0.00
Building Fund: \$33.00 * Other: \$0.00
Online Giving: \$1,389.97
Income Needed Weekly: \$1,853.00

PRAYER REQUESTS

May our prayers bring healing and hope to those in our community who are sick, especially: Katharina Rimmer, Dcn. Marion Rimmer, Fadia Loegering, Kathy Slonka, Kh. Simone Boutros, Khalil Haker, Marilyn Baiad, Nicholas Baiad, Paul Davis, Maddie Carey, Mary McGehee & Nadia Hattar.

(Names remain on the prayer list for six weeks, please call the parish office to add any names)

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Only Jesus Christ can save you from your sins... There are not, in fact, "many roads up the mountain." There is only one road that leads upward to eternal life: Jesus Christ. Every other road is man-made and leads downhill.

From Holy Scripture... Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the head of the corner. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:8-12)

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. (1 John 4:14)

You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all).... And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:36, 42-43)

In God's presence, consider... If I am trusting in something or someone other than Jesus to save me from my sins, I am going to be in for a very unpleasant shock at the end of my life.

Closing prayer... In the words of St. Paul, I pray: "Even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

Sacramental Mystery of the Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, March 23, 2025

4:00pm Confessions

5:00pm Prayers Begin

Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church

3270 Maryland Ave. Phoenix, AZ



Feast of the Annunciation

Divine Liturgy

March 25, 2025

7:00pm



Presanctified Divine Liturgy Wednesdays at 7:00pm

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is an evening service. It is the solemn Lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the Eucharistic gifts at the presanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, unless, of course, the feast of the Annunciation should intervene; hence its name of "presanctified."



**JOIN US FOR A LENTEN RETREAT
AT ST. JOHN OF THE DESERT**

Salvation

What is Salvation? Who can guide us to understand it?
Discover the answers as Fr. Peter explores the
New Testament teachings on this profound mystery.

APRIL 5, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

3718 E. GREENWAY RD. PHOENIX, AZ

\$15 - LUNCH PROVIDED

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

WWW.STJOHNOFTHEDESERT.COM/SALVATION

Akathist Hymns Fridays at 7:00pm

The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It consists of praises directed to the Mother of God, beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." The word "akathistos" means "not sitting," as normally, all participants stand while it is being prayed.



You are cordially invited to

High Tea

Join us for a splendid afternoon
from 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Dressing up with fancy hats optional,
but encouraged!

LIGHT LUNCH, TEA & TREATS
Tickets: \$30 adults, \$15 children

April 26, 2025
St. John of the Desert
3718 E. Greenway Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or go to
www.stjohnofthedesert.com/hightea

Our parish needs your help!
Your involvement in our men and
women's groups makes a
difference.



Monthly Meetings after
the Divine Liturgy
Men's Group- 2nd Sunday
Ladies' Guild- 3rd Sunday

All parishioners are encouraged
to join their respective group to
help with the practical, spiritual
& financial welfare of the parish.

Reminder

TITHE HERE

You can tithe online!

Holy Week

SCHEDULE

April 13 10:20am Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy

April 15 7:00pm Bridegroom Service

April 16 7:00pm Repentance & Holy Oil

April 17 7:00pm Crucifixion of Our Lord

April 18 12:00pm Vespers & Descent of the Cross

7:00pm Office of the Burial of Christ

April 19 11:00am Blessing of the New Light
& Sacraments of Initiation

8:00pm Hajmeh Resurrection Divine
Liturgy

Parish Groups

Ladies Guild (Leader: Veronica Quednau, email v.e.quednau1@gmail.com)

This group plans, reviews and coordinates our celebrations and social activities, including fundraising for the maintenance and sustenance of the Body of Christ. They promote hospitality and respond to the requests of the Parish.

Men's Group (Leader: John Nasser, email johnknasser@gmail.com)

This group advises the Pastor on pastoral, spiritual, financial and maintenance matters.

Family Catechesis & Forerunner Program (Leaders: All Clergy and Educators)

We are called to guide our children on the path towards Christ. On the first and last Sunday of each month, following the Divine Liturgy, both children and parents receive religious instruction.

Byzikids Home Educators Group (Leader: Kh. Jocelyn, email jabyad@gmail.com)

This is an Eastern Christian homeschool Co-Op which seeks to provide support and encouragement to families as they live out their faith. They support each other, pray, and share crafts and activities that enrich their homeschool education.

Women at the Well (Leader: Kh. Jocelyn, email jabyad@gmail.com)

Women of all ages gather to discuss a spiritual reflection and support each other.

Crafty Ladies (Leader: Kh. Simone, email simone@typicon.com)

The Crafty Ladies work together to create beautiful blankets which are donated to various organizations throughout the state.

They conclude their gathering by going out together for lunch.

Society of Publicans (Leader: Deacon Marion, email marionmrimmer@mail.com)

This is a prayer group that dedicates themselves to pray for the intentions of our Parish, the intentions of our Diocese, and our sister Churches in the United States. A weekly email is sent to the members of this group.

**STAY UP
TO DATE**

**TEXT THE WORD "DESERT" TO 84576
OR SCAN THE QR CODE!**



Parish Guidelines

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING - Members registered at St. John of the Desert and attend the Divine Liturgy at least three weekends each month, participate in the community life of the parish and contribute generously of their time, talent and treasure. **Members over eighteen years of age must be registered separately from their families.**

MYSTERIES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist) - Expectant parents should contact the pastor prior to the birth of the child. The priest can come to pray over the baby and mother in the days after birth. After forty days, Churching Prayers welcome the baby for the first time and the mother back to Church. To request the Mysteries of Initiation (Baptism), parents must be members in good standing and attend baptism preparation with the Godparents. At least one Godparent must be a member in good standing of a Melkite Church. The other Godparent may be a Catholic or Orthodox Christian in good standing.

MYSTERY OF HOLY CROWNING - Couples who wish to be married at St. John of the Desert must be members in good standing. They should contact the pastor prior to setting the date or making any other arrangements and at least six months prior to the desired date. They will need to complete our marriage preparation program. The Byzantine wedding ceremony begins in the narthex of the Church and does not feature the father walking the daughter down the main aisle. The couple approaches the Holy Mystery together as equals. There are no vows exchanged in the Byzantine Crowning ceremony.

MYSTERY OF HOLY CONFESSION - You may go to confession before or after most services in the Church. To make an appointment for confession, please call the office.

MYSTERY OF HOLY ANOINTING - Upon the request of the ill person or his/her immediate family only.

FUNERALS - When someone passes away in your family, please contact the Pastor prior to making any arrangements with the Funeral Home. There are no eulogies given in Church. Family and friends may deliver eulogies at the mercy meal.

There is no charge for the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, however, an offering of thanksgiving is customary. For members in good standing, we suggest a donation of \$300 for Baptism, \$600 for Wedding, \$600 for Funeral, \$75 for Memorial, and \$10 for Remembrance. The use of the Davis Hall for members in good standing is \$250 and \$100 for cleaning (an extra \$100 for Insurance may be required, check with the Pastor)



Frank Isaac Owner • IsaacJewelers.com • (480) 941-9090
15044 N Scottsdale Rd #130, Scottsdale, AZ 85254 • Kierland Commons



PHOENIX PRINT SHOP

Solving Your Print Marketing Needs

602-702-3480

OuttaPhx@gmail.com

www.phoenixprintshop.com 420 E Bell Rd Suite 7, Phoenix, AZ 85022



Kitchen on the Street is a locally founded community partner purposing to eliminate childhood hunger in Arizona. Kitchen on the Street stands with children in need at the intersection of nutrition and academic excellence. Earning 501c3 status in 2007; Tax Id 20-5723799, Kitchen on the Street is a qualifying charity for the "Dollar-for-Dollar Tax Credit" through the state of Arizona. (ARS 43-1088) Email: info@kitchenonthestreet.net

HANSEN DESERT HILLS MORTUARY And MEMORIAL PARK

6500 E. BELL ROAD (480) 991-5800

Licensed Catholic Funeral Directors and Arrangers

Duane Moore K of C
Tom Fisher K of C
Cyndi Bodinet

Hansen Mortuaries
Remembering Life

WHITNEY & MURPHY

Funeral Home
Since 1903

ARCADIA

4800 E. Indian School Rd. Phoenix, Arizona 85018
Phone 602.840.5600
Ed Murphy . Shawn Murphy . Al Asta

WE CARRY YOU STILL

Miscarriage & Infant Loss Ministry

623.295.9301 | www.wecarryyoustill.org | wecarryyoustill@gmail.com

DAVIS ENTERPRISES

Investment & Development

5110 N. 40TH STREET SUITE 220 :: PHOENIX, AZ 85018 :: (602) 275-1000

TILE GRAPHIX, LLC

Work done old school. Better than Angie's List.

Showers, Kitchens, Flooring & Fire Places

Contact: Kurt Rimmer 480-212-2532 or kurt@tilegraphixllc.com



Advertise with us!

Contact jabyad@gmail.com
or call 480-234-9974

to place an ad and support your church!



Advertise with us!

Contact jabyad@gmail.com
or call 480-234-9974

to place an ad and support your church!



Advertise with us!

Contact jabyad@gmail.com
or call 480-234-9974

to place an ad and support your church!

WEIRICK
JONES
GROUP

WWW.WEIRICKJONESGROUP.COM

WEST
USA
WestUSA
REALTY

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL A HOME? CONTACT OUR TEAM TODAY!

602-390-7379 OR 602-499-9985



BULLETIN ADS SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS & SUPPORT OUR CHURCH

CONTACT KH. JOCELYN ABYAD TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!
EMAIL JABYAD@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 480-234-9974